

An Account
Of a small Book in French , entitled
 HISTOIRE DES JOYAUX.

E T

Des Principales Richesses de l'Orient et de l'Occident ,
par le Sr. Chapuzeau.

THIS History treats of Diamonds, Rubies, Emeraulds, Pearls, Coral, Bezoar, Yellow Amber, Amber-gris, Indigo, &c.

Of *Diamonds* , The Author shews :

1. The *Places* , whence they are taken; of which he finds true Five in all the *East-Indies*, whereof *two* are *Rivers* , *vid. Saccader* in *Borneo*, and *Nage* in the Kingdom of *Bengala* ; at the bottom of both which , *he saith*, the Diamonds are found among the sand , after the waters , that fall as great Torrents from the Mountains, are run off; and the three others are *Mines* , in the Kingdoms of *Decan*, *Cuncan*, and *Golconda*. In this Relation he observes , that the Diamonds which are found at the bottom of those Rivers, have the best *Water* ; but those, in Mines , have often *Flaws* (which he imputes to the violent knockings of the Rock) and *Blebs* , ascribed to the condition of the Earth or Sand they are found in , *vid.* when that is not pure , but fattish or black. He takes also notice , that Diamonds are the heaviest of precious Stones , as Gold is of Mettals.

2. The *Manner* , how they are found and separated ; which is the same in substance, with that, described *Num 18. p. 328.*

3. The *Price* of them , according to the proportion of their weight ; for which he gives this Rule. Take , saith he , a Diamond of 10 *Carats* : this number is to be squared (which makes 100.) then , if the Stone be clean , each Carat according to its perfection , may be worth 40 to 60 Crowns ; if it have no good water, or have a Bleb or Flaw, the Carat will not be worth but from 10 to 30 Crowns. So multiplying the said 100 by the number , which each Carat of such or such a Stone may be worth, the product is the price of the Stone.

For.

For *Rubies*, he discourses also of the *Places*, where *they* are found; and of their *Price*. The *Places*, are, the Kingdom of *Pegu*, and the Isle of *Ceylon*; whence very few are suffered to be carried away. The *Price* is, that a good *Rubi* of the weight of 1 *Rati* (which is $\frac{7}{8}$ of a *Carat*) is esteemed at 20 old *Pagodes* in *India*, each *Pagode* being about 10 *shillings English*.

<i>Ratis.</i>	<i>Pagodes.</i>
Of 2	is valued at 100.
Of 3	———— 250.
Of 4	———— 500.
Of 5	———— 900.
Of 6	———— 1500.
Of 7	———— 2300.
Of 12	———— 12000.

Concerning *Turquois*, they are found in *Persia*, in the Province of *Chamaquay*, North of *Ispahan*, in two Mines, called the *Old* and the *New Rock*. These of the *New*, are of an ill whitish Blew; but those of the *Old*, are not suffered to be digged out, but by the King of *Persia* himself.

Emeraulds are affirm'd by him, never to be found in the *East-Indies*, but in *Perou*, whence they were carried by that Trading People to the *Moluccas*, even before *America* was discovered by the *Europeans*; and so they come from the Orient; of much less value, than they were formerly, by reason of their commonness. The Author notes, that *Emeraulds* grow in stones, just as *Chrystals*, forming a Vein, in which they are by little and little refined and thickned: and that some of them are seen, half white and half green; others, all white; and others all green and perfect.

To *Pearls* he assigns in the *Orient*, four places, where they are fished: The Isle of *Baharem* in the *Persian Gulf*: The Coast of *Arabia Felix*, near the Town of *Catiff*, over against *Baharem*: The Isle of *Ceylon* about *Manar*: The Isle of *Japan*. The best at *Ceylon*, but small; the biggest at *Japan*, but uneven. In the *West-Indies* they are fish'd in the *North-Sea*, in the Isles of *Marguerite*, *Cubagua*, *St. Marthe*; and at *Comana*, and *Comanagote*, near the Continent; and in the *South-Sea*, near *Panama*: which

American

American fort, though they are much inferiour to the *Oriental*, in Lustre, yet they far excel them in bigness, amounting sometimes (saith this *Author*) to 42 *Carats*.

In this Relation 'tis mention'd, that sometimes 5. or 6. *Pearls* are found in one Oyster: That *Pearl-fishers* are fed with dry and roasted meat, to give them better breathing: That Pearl-bearing Oysters are not good to eat, being flat and hard of digestion, &c.

As to the *Price* of good *Pearls*, well fashion'd, he marketh it, as follows:

Such a Pearl of

Grain.	Crowns.	Carats.	Crowns.
1	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	289
2	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	324
3	9	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	361
Carats.		5	400
1	16	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	441
1 $\frac{1}{4}$	25	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	484
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	529
1 $\frac{3}{4}$	49	6	576
2	64	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	625
2 $\frac{1}{4}$	81	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	675
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	729
2 $\frac{3}{4}$	121	7	784
3	144	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	841
3 $\frac{1}{4}$	160	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	900
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	196	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	960
3 $\frac{3}{4}$	225	8	1024
4	256		

Of *Corals*, He taketh notice, where they are fished, and in what manner. The *Places*, he saith, to be Eight; Three upon the Coasts

Coasts of *Corfica* and *Sardinia*, *vid.* at *Argueil* (where is the best) *Baza*, and near the *Ile of St. Peter*: One upon the Coast of *Sicily*, near *Drepanum*: Two upon the Coast of *Africa*, near the *Bisition of France*, and at *Tabarca*: One more, upon the Coast of *Catalonia*, at the *Cape of Quiers*: And the last, about *Majorca*. Observing, that red Coral is not found, but in the *Mediterranean* alone, where 'tis fished from the beginning of *April*, till the end of *July*, employing commonly about 200 Boats. The manner of fishing them, is with two big beams of wood, laid cross wise, with a good piece of Lead on the middle, to make it sink, casting about it course Hemp, carelessly twisted, and tying this Wood to two Ropes, whereof one hangs at the Sterne, the other at the fore-part of the Boat; and so letting this contrivance fall into the Current, along the Rocks, where the Hemp being turned about, and engaged in the Coral, there need sometimes many Boats to draw away the Instrument.

Bezoar he saith, is not onely found in *Golconda*, in the Province of *Renquerry*, in the Maw of Goats, whereof some are at times furnisht with a dozen a piece; but also at *Macassar*, in the *Ile of Celebes*, in the Body of Apes; bigger than those found in *Golconda*. He mentions, that the people in those parts, to find whether a Goat hath any of those *Bezoar-stones* in its body, do beat his belly with their hands, and rub it, till all the stones in the Animal come together, and then they feel and tell them, as you do stones in a Bag, &c.

F I N I S.

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